

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN:EDD

APPROVED BY S - THE SECRETARY

P - MR.HABIB

S/S-SGOLDSMITH

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P R 080055Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 158571

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SHEN'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

1. AT HIS REQUEST, ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB JULY 7 FOR A DISCUSSION OF RECENT U.S. CHINA POLICY STATEMENTS AND THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO CHINA. ATMOSPHERE WAS REASONABLY CORDIAL.

2. SHEN ASKED HOW WE SAW THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WHETHER WE VIEWED THE SECRETARY'S TRIP AS EXPLORATORY TALKS OR AS NEGOTIATIONS. HABIB REPLIED THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WOULD BE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRC LEADERSHIP. THE DECISIONS ON OUR APPROACH TO THE TRIP WOULD BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE SEC-
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RETARY'S DEPARTURE. WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE ON NORMALIZATION OR ON OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HABIB ASSURED SHEN THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT RESPONSIBLY ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE ROC. HE INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE ROC EMBASSY BEFORE THE TRIP AND WOULD PROVIDE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, A READ-OUT ON THE DISCUSSIONS AFTERWARDS.

3. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S JUNE 30 PRESS CONFERENCE, SHEN ASKED WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WERE INTENDED TO ANTICIPATE A TIME WHEN US-ROC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD NO LONGER EXIST OR TO INDICATE THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEKING ON THE BASIS OF ITS THREE CONDITIONS. HABIB RESPONDED THAT OUR POLICY CONTINUED TO BE BASED ON THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE AND THAT WE HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED MAKING ANY STATEMENTS CONCERNING PEKING'S THREE CONDITIONS. SHEN ASKED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION HAD A DEADLINE FOR NORMALIZATION OR HAD REACHED DECISIONS ON MODALITIES. HABIB RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO DEADLINE AND THAT THE TERMS FOR NORMALIZATION REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.

4. SHEN NOTED TAIPEI'S REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH AND POINTED TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GEORGE YEH'S REMARKS AS AN INDICATION OF THE DEPTH OF FEELING IT HAD AROUSED. HABIB SAID HE HAD READ FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN'S STATEMENT ON THE SPEECH. THOUGH HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH ALL ITS POINTS, THE ROC'S POSITION WAS UNDERSTOOD. HABIB POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH HAD NOT GONE BEYOND WELL KNOWN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF U.S. CHINA POLICY. WHEN SHEN ASKED WHY THE SPEECH DID NOT MENTION THE ROC EVEN IN ITS ECONOMIC SECTION, HABIB COMMENTED THAT

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IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS INDICATING ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY. SHEN MADE SEVERAL SARCASTIC REMARKS ABOUT REFERENCES IN RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS TO THE PRC'S ROLE IN PRESERVING PEACE. HABIB RESPONDED ONLY THAT PEKING WAS CLEARLY A MAJOR ACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT HOW PEKING PLAYED ITS ROLE. VANCE

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